

**Governor's Commission to Review and Advise on Services Related to At-Risk  
Youth in New Hampshire**

**April 10, 2015**

**John H. Sununu Youth Services Center  
1056 North River Road  
Manchester, New Hampshire**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Geoffrey Souther; Mary Steady; David Dionne; Karen Purse; Evelyn Clark Smith; Martha Kane; Michael Skibbie; Nicole Rodler; Michael Adamkowski; Representative DeSimone; Representative McKinney.

**Commission Members Absent:** Judge James Carroll, Commissioner Nick Toumpas (ex-officio); Note: the Senate member had not yet appointed by the time of this meeting.

**Others in Attendance:** Amy Kennedy, Policy Director, Office of Governor Maggie Hassan; Mary Ann Cooney, Associate Commissioner (DHHS); Penny Sampson, Director of Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC); staff of the SYSC, listed in presentations.

**I. Call to order**

Chair Geoff Souther called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm by welcoming members of the Commission, SYSC staff, and the public in attendance.

**II. Presentations by SYSC Staff (see attachment titled "SYSC Presentation" for more information)**

*Kevin Sullivan* provided an overview of the organizational structure of the Sununu Youth Services Center, including a breakdown of the senior leadership team, clinical leadership treatment coordinators, clinical services staff, residential leadership, and facility operations staff. A review of the Center's mission and beliefs was provided.

*Donna Bourbeau* gave an overview of the medical services provided on site. The Medical Director is on site 3 days per week and is on call 24 hours per day. A psychiatrist is on staff 4 days per week to provide behavioral health support. A dentist is on staff once per week and can refer students to a practice for x-rays and other major dental needs. HIV and sexually transmitted infections counseling is offered on a voluntary basis twice per month and is free to the SYSC, under an external contract.

*Rachel DeVita* provided an overview of classification, the process of determining a program that best fits the student's needs within two weeks of commitment.

*Rob Rodler* presented on the permanency unit, where the SYSC considers family support, siblings, hobbies, and the plan for transition when deciding permanency needs to ensure a successful transition back into the community.

*Marie Sullivan* spoke on the educational programing within the Center, giving examples of past student school projects completed while in the Center. Marie highlighted the desire to bring the auto program back into the vocational program, as it has had much success for work transition post-admission.

Commissioner Mike Skibbie discussed the code process for youth, and questioned if the process could signal a need for review of a student's IEP with the school district. *Marie Sullivan* agreed that a review of the IEP at placement is done to ensure it fits the student's needs during tenure.

The Commission discussed the need for a review of the IEP process and school district involvement with a focus on the educational component at a future meeting.

*Carol Gay* provided a briefing on therapeutic services and restorative practices. The Center works to meet national standards when it comes to recognized performance based standards regarding safety and security, training, staff and youth relations, and programming.

Commissioner Geoff Souther asked if Medicaid coverage terminates upon admission to the Center. *Director Sampson* answered yes, and that the Center has been working to identify ways to be a facility that accepts Medicaid based on its rehabilitative model.

### **III. Public Comment**

No discussion from the public.

### **IV. Next Steps**

The Commission members agreed to meet next on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 am in rooms 206-208 of the Legislative Office Building.

There was a desire from the Commission to invite the author of the recent SYSC report to attend the next meeting to discuss the report. Mary Ann Cooney of DHHS agreed to reach out. The report is on the DHHS website and will be included in the meeting materials under the Commission's website on Governor.nh.gov.

Chair Souther asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Dionne moved, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner McKinney. The motion was adopted.

Chair Souther moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Adamkowski seconded. The motion was adopted and the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 PM.

DRAFT